

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

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FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ALGIERS AMMAN JERUSALEM
JIDDA KUWAIT TEL AVIV TRIPOLI TUNIS BAGHDAD FROM BEIRUT

12 SEP 73:

QUOTE UNCLAS BEIRUT 10785

DEPT PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINS JO SY EG

SUBJ: ALLEGED SYRIAN MOTIVES AT CAIRO SUMMIT

REF: BEIRUT 10731

1. ON 3RD DAY OF CAIRO SUMMIT SEPT 12, BEIRUT FRENCH-LANGUAGE L'ORIENT-LE JOUR CARRIED SPECIAL REPORT FROM "WELL-INFORMED SOURCES" IN DAMASCUS THAT SARG, IN EXCHANGE FOR ITS COOPERATION IN REMOVING JORDAN FROM POLITICAL ISOLATION IN ARAB WORLD, HAS BEEN PROMISED BY KING FEISAL THAT HE WILL PLEAD SYRIA'S CASE WITH USG IN ORDER ENSURE SARG'S INCLUSION IN FUTURE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE OVERALL PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF ME CONFLICT. SAG'S PROMISE WAS ALLEGEDLY CONVEYED TO PRES ASSAD BY SADAT IN COURSE OF LATTER'S SECRET VISIT TO DAMASCUS IN LATE AUGUST. IN ADDITION, SAME SOURCES CONTEND UNSYG WALDHEIM ALSO ASSURED ASSAD OF HIS DESIRE SEE SYRIA INCLUDED IN RENEWED UNCLASSIFIED
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OVERALL SETTLEMENT EFFORT.

2. ARTICLA ALSO STATES THAT SARG, BY VIRTUE OF ITS CONTROL OVER SA'IQA AND SYRIAN-BASED PLA UNITS, IS IN POSITION TO ENSURE THEIR SUPPORT FOR AND PERHAPS PARTICIPATION IN ANY ARRANGEMENT WORKED OUT AT CAIRO SUMMIT. (WE UNDERSTAND SA'IQA'S ZOHAYR MUHSEN, ALREADY ON RECORD IN FAVOR OF RAPPROCHEMENT EFFORT (BEIRUT 10672), HAS JOINED ASSAD IN CAIRO). PLA LEADERS, WHO HAVE NOT JOINED CHORUS OF FEDAYEEN DENUNCIATIONS OF CAIRO SUMMIT, ALLEGEDLY ARE PLEASED BY RECENT SARG REFUSAL OF FATAH/PLO REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF SYRIAN PLA UNITS TO IRAQ AND APPARENTLY HOPE NEW ARRANGEMENT WITH JORDAN WILL PERMIT INCREASE IN PLA PRESENCE ON EAST BANK.

3. ARTICLE GOES ON TO CLAIM THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN SYRIAN AND FATAH LEADERS ARE NOW MORE STRAINED THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE 1967, CITING (A) RECENT INSTANCES IN WHICH SARG HAS REFUSED TURN OVER SOVIET-BLOC ARMS SHIPPED TO FEDAYEEN VIA SYRIA; (B) SYRIAN OPPOSITION TO PLO PARTICIPATION AT ALGIERS NON-ALIGHED CONFERENCE AND SYRIAN DEL'S EFFORTS THERE TO SABOTAGE PLO'S CLAIM TO BE "SOLE" REP OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE; AND (C) REPORTS OF FRICTIONS WHICH HAVE ARISEN BETWEEN FATAH ELEMENTS AND MOROCCAN TROOPS STATIONED IN SYRIA. BUFFUN UNQUOTE RUSH

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